

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. A complete listing of the claims with proper claims identifiers is set forth below.

1-23. Cancelled.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for placing first and second stents into a bifurcation having a main lumen and first and second branch lumens using a stent delivery system, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a first introducer having a first distal portion configured for carrying a stent thereon having a first distal outer diameter and a first proximal portion having a first proximal outer diameter, the first proximal outer diameter being less than the first distal outer diameter and providing a second introducer having a distal portion configured for carrying a stent thereon having a second distal outer diameter;

b) placing the first introducer and the second introducer in a staggered, adjacent configuration in a working channel of an endoscope wherein the first proximal portion is adjacent to the second distal portion such that an overall diameter of the first and second introducers is less than the sum of the first distal outer diameter and the second distal outer diameter;

c) placing a first and a second wire guide in an adjacent configuration, the second wire guide and the second introducer advanceable independent of the first introducer;

d) placing the first wire guide into the main lumen and the first branch lumen of the bifurcation and placing the second wire guide into the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation; and

e) advancing the first introducer over the first wire guide from the working channel into the main lumen and the first branch lumen of the bifurcation and

independently advancing the second introducer over the second wire guide from the working channel into the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation entirely external to the first introducer such that the first introducer is positioned within the main lumen and the first lumen and the second introducer is positioned within the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation;

wherein the first wire guide is placed into the main lumen and the first branch lumen and the second wire guide placed into the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation prior to advancement of the first introducer and the second introducer.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein step e) further comprises advancing the first and second introducers over the first and second wire guides such that the first distal portion of the first introducer is distal to the second distal portion of the second introducer.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of placing a first stent within a first branch lumen and a main lumen of a bifurcation and placing a second stent within a second branch lumen and the main lumen of the bifurcation comprising the steps of:

a) providing a first introducer having the first stent retained on a first distal portion and a second introducer having the second stent retained on a second distal portion, the first and second introducers disposed in a staggered, adjacent configuration in a working channel of an endoscope wherein the first stent is disposed distal to the second stent, the staggered, adjacent configuration having an overall diameter that is less than the sum of a first distal portion diameter and a second distal portion diameter;

b) placing a first wire guide into the main lumen and the first branch lumen of the bifurcation, advancing a second wire guide entirely external to and independent

of the first stent and placing a second wire guide into the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation; and

c) advancing the first introducer over the first wire guide into the main lumen and the first branch lumen of the bifurcation and advancing the second introducer over the second wire guide into the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation such that the first introducer is positioned within the main lumen and the first lumen and the second introducer is positioned within the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of: d) deploying the first stent within the first branch lumen and the main lumen of the bifurcation.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of: d) simultaneously deploying the first and second stents within the first and second branch lumens and the main lumen of the bifurcation.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the first introducer further comprises a first proximal portion having a first proximal diameter, the first distal diameter being greater than the first proximal diameter; wherein the second introducer further comprises a second proximal portion having a second proximal diameter, wherein the second distal diameter is greater than the second proximal diameter; and wherein step a) further comprises disposing the first introducer and the second introducer such that the first proximal portion is disposed adjacent to the second distal portion.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of placing first and second stents in first and second branch lumens and a main lumen of a bifurcation in a biliary system comprising the steps of:

providing a first stent and a second stent in a staggered, adjacent, independently advanceable configuration in a working channel of an endoscope wherein the first stent is distal to the second stent; the staggered, adjacent configuration having an overall diameter that is less than the sum of adjacent first stent portion and second stent portion diameters;

distally advancing the first stent toward the first branch of the biliary system;

positioning the first stent within the first branch and the main lumen of the bifurcation such that a distal portion of the first stent extends at least partially within the first branch of the bifurcation and a proximal portion of the first stent extends at least partially within the main lumen of the bifurcation;

distally advancing the second stent entirely external to the first stent and toward the second branch of the biliary system;

positioning the second stent within the second branch and the main lumen of the bifurcation such that a distal portion of the second stent extends at least partially within the second branch of the bifurcation and a proximal portion of the second stent extends at least partially within the main lumen of the bifurcation; and

deploying the first and second stents within the bifurcation such that at least a portion of the proximal portion of the first stent is in a side-by-side configuration with at least a portion of the proximal portion of the second stent within the main lumen.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein access to the second branch lumen remains open as the first stent is positioned within the first branch lumen and main lumen.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the first and second stents are deployed simultaneously.

33-36. Cancelled.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising placing a first stent retained on the first distal portion within the main lumen and the first branch lumen, and placing a second stent retained on the second distal portion within the main lumen and the second branch lumen subsequent to placing the first wire guide into the main lumen and the first branch lumen and placing the second wire guide into the main lumen and the second branch lumen of the bifurcation.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising deploying the first stent by withdrawing a first outer catheter of the first introducer and deploying the second stent by withdrawing a second outer catheter of the second introducer.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the first and second stent are sequentially deployed.

40. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein step e) further comprises advancing the first introducer and the second introducer into the biliary system.

41. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein step a) further comprises providing a self-expanding stent carried on the first introducer.

42. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein step b) comprises placing the first wire guide and the second wire guide into the biliary system.